

a reaction vessel support disposed to hold the plurality of reaction vessels in a preferred orientation,

a[n] plurality of injection ports, each injection port including a pressure seal, situated to provide access to one of said reaction vessels, the plurality of injection ports operable for the injection of liquids into said reaction vessels,

a[n] plurality of evacuation ports, each evacuation port including a pressure seal, situated to provide access to one of said reaction vessels, the plurality of evacuation ports operable for the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels, and

injection and evacuation fittings formed to matingly engage said respective injection and evacuation ports and to thereby enable the delivery of fluids to the reaction vessels and the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels.

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23. (amended) A universal fluid exchanger comprising:

a plurality of reaction vessels;

a reaction vessel support disposed to hold the plurality of reaction vessels in a preferred orientation;

a[n] plurality of injection ports, each injection port including a pressure seal, situated to provide access to one of said reaction vessels, the plurality of injection ports operable for the injection of liquids into said reaction vessels;

a[n] plurality of evacuation ports, each evacuation port including a pressure seal, situated to provide access to one of said reaction vessels, the plurality of evacuation ports operable for the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels;

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injection and evacuation fittings formed to matingly engage said respective injection and evacuation ports and to thereby enable the delivery of fluids to the reaction vessels and the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels; and

an actuator for controlling selectively aligning the injection and evacuation ports of the plurality of reaction vessels and the injection and evacuation fittings, respectively.

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47. (amended) A combinatorial chemical synthesis reaction tool for providing fluids to a plurality of reaction vessels, comprising:

a reaction vessel support adapted to hold the plurality of reaction vessels in a preferred orientation,

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a[n] plurality of injection ports, including a pressure seal, each injection port situated to provide access to [each] one of the reaction vessels, the plurality of injection ports operable for the injection of liquids into said reaction vessels,

a[n] plurality of evacuation ports, each evacuation port including a pressure seal, situated to provide access to [each] one of the reaction vessels, the plurality of evacuation ports operable for the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels, and

injection and evacuation fittings formed to matingly engage said respective injection and evacuation ports and to thereby enable the delivery of fluids to the reaction vessels and the evacuation of fluids from said reaction vessels.

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REMARKS

The present amendment replies to the Official Action mailed September 11, 1998. That action made final the previous restriction requirement and included claims 47-65 in Group I for purposes of examination. The amendment filed August 20, 1998 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 as introducing new matter. Claims 49-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first